MESSAGE FROM ELAINE DAIGNAULT, DIRECTOR:

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Residents,

Please accept my best wishes to you and your families during this most unusual time in our collective history.   These past few months have been mentally and emotionally trying for everyone. The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic, financial instability, and continued racial inequity in our country has cast a dark shadow on the health and wellbeing of our community.

Unfortunately, our "new normal" is one of uncertainty and constant change as we navigate the fear, anxiety, and eventual transition to our "next normal" which we all hope to color with positivity and compassion.

Our professional staff in the Department of Human Services is no stranger to adversity, discomfort, and personal growth. In fact, our goal is *to promote independence, personal enrichment, and an enhanced quality of life for Westport residents of all ages through a variety of programs and services*

Our top priority during the pandemic is to continue to provide connection, support, and accurate information to residents of all ages and stages with a focus on our most vulnerable individuals including seniors, people with disabilities, and families. Although our facilities are not currently open to the public, DHS remains fully operational and timely in our responses to community inquiries. If we don't have the answer, we will help direct you to the appropriate resources or work with you to find creative solutions.

Our community's resiliency is dependent on our collective responses to the challenges that we face. We, at Human Services, promise to provide compassionate and professional support to you in an effort to enhance mental and physical wellness. If you, or someone you know, needs help or a simple call during home-isolation, please do not hesitate to email Humansrv@westportct.gov. Better yet, give them our phone number 203-341-1050 and have them reach out to us directly!

With gratitude and positivity,

Elaine Daignault

Elaine Daignault and the entire DHS Team